

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] As can be appreciated, other devices such as a multiplexer can be used by the loopback circuit. Referring now to FIG. 3B, a multiplexer 121 is used to connect the output of the write amplifier 114 to the read channel 100. The multiplexer 121 also disconnects the output of the ~~write~~ read amplifier 116 at the same time, which reduces noise.

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Referring now to FIGs. 3A and 3B, a write enable signal (~~W~~) (r/w) is generated by the read channel circuit 100 during a write operation. In one embodiment, the write enable signal controls the switch 120 or the multiplexer 121. The output of the write amplifier 114 is looped back by the switch 120 or the multiplexer 121 to the read channel circuit 100. In other words, the switch 120 or the multiplexer 121 connects the output of the write amplifier 114 to the read signal input of the read channel 100. When the write enable signal is not asserted (e.g. during a read operation), the output of the write amplifier 114 is not looped back by the switch 120 or the multiplexer 121 to the read channel circuit 100.

Please replace Paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Referring now to FIGs. 5 and 6, functional block diagrams of third and fourth exemplary read channel circuits 100 and preamp circuits 102 are shown. The read channel circuits 100 and preamp circuits 102 in FIGs. 5 and 6 are similar to those

shown in FIGs. 3 and 4, respectively. However, instead of using the write enable signal to initiate the test, the preamp circuit ~~440~~ 102 includes a trigger 140 that automatically triggers the loopback mode periodically when the write enable signal is present. For example, the trigger 140 can be triggered during startup when the write enable signal is present. The test enable signal that is generated by the trigger 140 remains high for a predetermined period during which the testing of the write amplifier 114 is performed. After the test is complete, the test enable signal goes low until the next startup. When the switch 120 is used in FIG. 5, the read amplifier 116 is optionally turned off during the loopback mode to reduce noise in the system due to signals from the read/write head 59. Turning off the read amplifier 116 may be accomplished by turning off or disconnecting a supply voltage, disconnecting the input of the read amplifier 116 from the read/write head and/or grounding the inputs of the read amplifier 116.